AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing severe sepsis in a human subject, comprising:

determining a concentration of at least one analyte in a fluid test sample from said human subject;

comparing the concentration of each said analyte(s) to a corresponding reference concentration selected to indicate the presence or absence of severe sepsis, wherein said reference concentration is determined using one or more control samples obtained from one or more human subjects not suffering from sepsis, provided that at least one of said analyte(s) is myeloid progenitor inhibitory factor-1 ("MPIF-1"), wherein an elevation in ~~the~~ concentration of said analyte(s) in the test sample of about two fold relative to the reference concentration is indicative of the presence of severe sepsis in the human; and

diagnosing severe sepsis in the human subject using the result(s) of said comparing step.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said samples comprise blood.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said samples comprise serum.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said samples comprise plasma.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is interleukin 1 receptor antagonist ("IL-1 Ra").

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is monocyte chemotactic protein-1 ("MCP-1").

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is tumor necrosis factor receptor-1 ("TNF-R1").

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is monokine induced by interferon gamma ("MIG").

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is B-lymphocyte chemoattractant ("BLC").

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is herpes virus entry factor ("HVEM").

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is interleukin-15 ("IL-15").

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is monocyte chemotactic protein-2 ("MCP-2").

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is macrophage colony stimulating factor ("M-CSF").

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is monocyte chemotactic protein-3 beta ("MIP-3β").

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is matrix metalloproteinase-9 ("MMP-9").

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is pulmonary and activation-regulated chemokine ("PARC").

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is interleukin 1 receptor antagonist ("ST-2").

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein severe sepsis is diagnosed if the concentrations of at least two of said analytes in said test sample are ~~indicative of the presence of severe sepsis~~ elevated about two fold relative to the corresponding reference concentrations.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein sepsis is diagnosed if at least three of said analytes in said test sample are elevated relative to the corresponding reference concentrations.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein sepsis is diagnosed if at least four of said analytes in said test sample are elevated relative to the corresponding reference concentrations.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein sepsis is diagnosed if at least five of said analytes in said test sample are elevated relative to the corresponding reference concentrations.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein sepsis is diagnosed if at least six of said analytes in said test sample are elevated relative to the corresponding reference concentrations.

24-95. Cancelled

96. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further provided that at least one analyte is selected from the group consisting of epidermal growth factor ("EGF"), epithelial cell-derived neutrophil activating peptide ("ENA-78"), eotaxin ("EOT"), growth-related oncogene beta ("Gro-β"), interleukin-1 beta ("IL-1β"), Leptin, macrophage migration inhibitory factor ("MIF"), macrophage inflammatory protein-1 alpha ("MIP-1α"), oncostatin M ("OSM"), Protein C, P-Selectin, and hemofiltrate CC chemokine 4 ("HCC4").

97. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is EGF.

98. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is ENA-78.

99. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is EOT.

100. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is Gro-β.

101. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is IL-1β.

102. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is Leptin.

103. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is MIF.

104. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is MIP-1α.

105. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is OSM.

106. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is Protein C.

107. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is P-Selectin.

108. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 96 wherein further provided that at least one analyte is HCC4.

109. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein an elevation in concentration of MPIF-1 in the test sample of about four fold relative to the reference concentration is indicative of the presence of severe sepsis in said human.